

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board

Meeting Number 28 (02-18)

February 5, 2018

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 28 was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by chairperson Paula Mullis followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of Meeting Number 26 (December 2017) were motioned for approval by James B. Lyons, III, seconded and approved by voice vote. Meeting Number 27 was cancelled due to hazardous weather. CAB members present were Paula R. Mullis, Doris G. Carey, James B. Lyons, III, J.J. McQueen, and Ron Sollod. CAB members absent were Dion Guthrie, Fran Salbeck, and Gloria Moon.

Special guests in attendance and community members who gave presentations were Kathy L. Burley, Director of Parks and Recreation; Captain Donald Gividen, Southern Precinct Commander; Donna Blasdell, Legislative Aide to Councilman Perrone, Jr.; Adam Shellenbarger, Preacher of Joppatowne Christian Church; Barbara Risacher; Sylvia W. Bryant, Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services; Sue Sapp, Legislative Assistant to Council President Richard C. Slutzky; Hank Sebula and Alecia Hamilton from Found in Faith Ministries.

Sheriff's Office/Community Policing

Captain Gividen shared the community crime report for the Joppa/Joppatowne area, for the period January 4-February 4, 2018. Compared to 2017, alarm calls were up by 3 in 2018. Suspicious person/incidents were up by 9, thefts and hand guns increased by 1 so far this year. Total calls for service and total crashes were all down substantially in 2018. Part 1 crimes were also down substantially. There were also crimes that are non-calculable at this time. Capt. Gividen also responded to community members' questions concerning drug overdoses, Narcan and Part 1 crimes. He was thanked by the Chair for his participation.

Kathy L. Burley, Director of Parks & Recreation

Ms. Burley discussed dredging that is ongoing in the Joppatowne area which is expected to be completed by the end of February. This phase of the dredging project includes the area from the rail road over Bush River to Taylor Creek at the Marina. This phase of the dredging started in October 2017 cost \$809,000. The next phase will start in October 2018 and will include Foster Branch and West Taylor Creek to Rumsey Island. She mentioned that a new canoe and kayak launch area would be constructed at Marina Point Park is in

design stage. Ms. Burley stated that the present launch site is not handicap assessable; all public areas must comply with ADA requirements. Ms. Burley mentioned many therapeutic programs are being expanded and may be held at the John Archer School. Community members asked questions concerning electricity in the park, operational budget, plans for the walking path, upkeep of the park and other issues. Kathy said that she has been in her position only a short while but will work to get questions answered. She would also like feedback from the community on what programs are needed for the Joppa/Joppatowne area.

Mrs. Barbara Risacher and Adam Shellenbarger reported on the Joppatowne Development and Heritage Corporation (JDHC) Greenway Trails Committee meeting with the Director of Administration for Harford County, William Boniface. However, Director Boniface was ill and the information was shared with Kathy Burley who was designated to listen to them. They shared that they are a group of citizens from Joppa and Joppatowne who came together two years ago to work on projects to improve our communities. They asked that Harford County assist the communities by doing the following:

1. Assuring that planning review of the Magnolia Neighborhood Overlay District area will insist on a contiguous greenway, as listed in the County Executive's Infrastructure Vision Plan and that the greenway will include a walking /biking trail to connect with the Copenhaver Park.
2. Establishing a committee comprised of members representing Parks and Roads, the Board of Education, and BGE who will work with our local Trails Committee to establish and mark a public access trail through Joppatowne.
3. Establishing a committee comprised of landowners and local and State government to determine a proposed trail alignment that will address the Colonial Greenway Trail connecting the properties listed above as envisioned in the Harford NEXT Plan.
4. Requesting the Harford County Watershed Stewards Academy or Department of Public Works, resolving the storm water drainage problem created by the storm drain from the Joppatowne Plaza into the Little Gunpowder stream bed that is causing severe erosion.
5. Designating points of contacts in Planning and Zoning to work with the nonprofits, community groups, various commercial establishments in both Harford and Baltimore County to pursue Maryland Heritage area Designation for the Little and Big Gunpowder Falls Rivers.
6. Provide adequate funding of parks operational budget.

Barbara said this is wishful thinking but a practical list.

Ms. Sylvia W. Bryant, Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services, mentioned

Harford County has a Facebook campaign going on inviting people to take a picture of their favorite historical site and post it on Facebook. There is a green infrastructure workshop on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at the Chesapeake Center, Harford Community College, from 5 pm to 8 pm. Please attend if interested. She passed out the annual report for the County Executive. Also, she reported that Harford County is the new center of opportunity.

County Council and Community Update

Donna Blasdel, Legislative Aide to Councilman Mike Perrone, Jr., mentioned that there is nothing to report to the community at this time. She was asked questions about some issues in the Joppatowne area in which she will get the answers for a future meeting.

Alicia Hamilton of the Found in Faith Ministries mentioned that the ministry is renting the old Joppatowne post office space. The organization serves transitioning foster youth, veterans, people in recovery, and survivors of domestic violence, single-parent households, re-entry individuals, natural disaster victims and more. A few of the goals of Found in Faith Ministries include furnishing homes, connecting hearts and enriching lives. Community members are invited to become a part of something big by volunteering, donating and much more. If you can help, you are encouraged to call 443-519-2464.

Community Updates from CAB Members and Community Members

Ron Sollod and James B. Lyons III shared information with the group concerning the importance of fire safety in the home by having a plan to get everyone to safety in case of a fire. They also shared information on calls for service as well as drug overdoses that occurred over the past month. There were several fires in the county due to careless smoking and burning materials. Fire regulations require that every household must have a least one battery operated ten-year smoke alarm. They also reported that the County Executive had found the money to complete much needed changes in the firehouse. February 4-10 is National Burn Week.

Adam Shellenbarger thanked those who supported the homeless for two weeks. They had a lot of good moments. There was much support from churches as well as the library. He said that the community is incredible. The homeless rely on community support, and the community stepped up to help. Adam also introduced Sarah Henderson, a student representative at Joppatowne High School who would like to serve on the Community Advisory Board. J.J. McQueen said that per Adam's request, he supported the JHS athletic department by taking his children to basketball games. J.J. also mentioned that Iota Alpha Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is holding its 41st Annual Scholarship Banquet on March 11, at the Richlin Ballroom. The event raises money to provide full scholarships to Harford Community College and Cecil College.

Paula Mullis thanked the community members for their attendance each month at the CAB meetings. She said that this is the best attended meeting in the County.

Doris Carey shared that the Harford Community College Foundation is celebrating the college's 60th anniversary by hosting "Illuminate," sponsored by BGE. There will be a lot of exciting events which will be held over the next couple of months. If there is any interest in any of the events, information can be found at www.harford.edu/illuminate.

Hank Sebula, a community member, stated that he spoke with a County representative and shared his concerns about the unseemly look of the traffic lanes along Joppa Farm Road. The condition was caused by the utility work along Joppa Farm Rd that has finally been completed. Hank stated that he was told the highway department will have road lanes repainted from Rt. 40 to Trimble Rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Doris G. Carey, Secretary